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Light entertainment

Let there be light: Christmas came early for Cara Joshi and Lalitha Yayingingha, who were among the crowds at the official switching on of New Malden's festive lights. Find out what other seasonal fun has been taking place around the borough on page 6

Deadline: KT23897

MY TAJ MAHAL TERROR

MEP caught in Mumbai attacks

by DAVID LINDSELL

dlindsell@london.newsquest.co.uk

A Surbiton politician who left the Taj Mahal Palace hotel half an hour before murderous gunmen entered and took his colleagues hostage feared for his life as he hid in a popular tourist restaurant nearby.

London MEP Syed Kamall, 41, was on a trade delegation with six colleagues from Brussels and had checked into the hotel on the evening the attacks, in which at least 188 people were killed.

He and three of his colleagues checked in on Wednesday, November 26, took their bags to their rooms and headed to popular tourist restaurant the Khyber.

Dr Kamall said: "We were in the restaurant when I got a phone call from MEP Sajjad Karim who was in the hotel basement. He said, 'whatever you do, don't come back'. I thought it was a wind-up at first.

"One of the German MEPs was hiding in the kitchen. She texted us to say: 'It is dangerous. It is a bloody mess. Don't come back. There were a few hours when we didn't realise what was going on, but when we were told they were targeting tourists, our restaurant was an obvious destination. We thought 'are they coming here next?'"

The group holed up for the night in a room above the restaurant, where they received a desperate call from an assistant who heard bullets and knocking outside his door at the Taj Mahal.

Dr Kamall said: "It was very scary. We



Scared: MEP Syed Kamall

said, 'don't answer and keep quiet'. In the end he covered himself in a duvet and ran down the stairs, climbed over a garden wall and escaped."

Other colleagues were also trapped inside the hotel and some narrowly escaped from the Leopold Cafe, where automatic fire killed about 10 people.

The delegation was eventually rescued from the restaurant by the Spanish consulate and Dr Kamall flew back to Heathrow on Friday.

Dr Kamall has written off any chance of getting back the luggage, papers and laptop he left on the fourth floor of the hotel.

But he vowed to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Mumbai, and said he would return in the new year.

Have you been affected by this story?
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Inside

- New school for north Kingston.....page 4
- Doc suspended: GMC bans New Malden medic for six months....page 7

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Seven days, seven events

Thursday
Innovation In Action is a new walking workshop starting at noon in the London Innovation Centre, Lombard House, Purley Way, Croydon, and finishing at 3pm in Ikea.

Friday
Not Strictly Dancing will be holding its Christmas tea dance at 2.30pm-5pm, Richard Mayo Hall, Kingston United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston. 020 8549 0999.

Saturday
London Santa Run 2008 will start at 10am at Albert Gate, Battersea Park, Battersea. Register at runnersworld.co.uk

Sunday
Discover the gothic wonder of West Norwood Cemetery with

Norwood Cemetery tours. 11am-12.30pm, Norwood Road, West Norwood.

Monday
Carol singing with St Joseph's Junior School takes place from 10am to noon at the Mall, Ashley Shopping Centre, Epsom.

Tuesday
Surbiton Women's Institute meets on the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held at St Marks Church Hall, Church Hill Road, Surbiton, at 2pm. Entry is free.

Wednesday
Charles Court Opera offers a Christmas Melody of Mayhem at the Riverhouse Arts Centre, Riverhouse Barn, Manor Road, Walton. 01932 253354. £9 (£13 including lunch).

For hundreds more events go to yourlocalguardian.co.uk/events

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Video news

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Students opt to keep army out of their career

The armed forces will be banned from recruiting at Kingston University students union events, after students decided it was promoting war.

The motion was proposed at the students' union AGM on Thursday and will mean the Army, Navy, RAF and Ter-

ritorial Army will no longer be allowed stalls at the annual Freshers' Fair.

The union is now pressing the university to ban them from other careers events.

It is the first time Kingston has shunned the armed forces and it follows in the footsteps of other universi-

ties which took similar action earlier this year.

Olrick Coker, president of the students' union, said: "This is what the students have decided and we are going to try and support them the best we can."

He added that the military's incentives to pay for students

fees if they sign up is "a little bit manipulative" and leads them into going to war when they do not necessarily want to.

The university has invited the RAF to a careers event next week and the union has asked that they do not recruit students directly.

Lloyds Olympic day

Olympians past, present and future were guests of honour at the opening of Lloyds TSB's new look branch in Clarence Street, Kingston, on November 29.

Local sailing champion Alex Groves, one of 250 "local heroes" to receive funding as part of the bank's support of the 2012 London Olympics, helped cut the ribbon at the refurbished branch with fellow Olympic athletes Jonathan Frett, Jonathan Smith and

Jack Binstead.

In an Olympics double, residents also experienced a piece of history at the branch yesterday as the 1948 Olympic Torch paid a visit to the bank.

The torch holds a special significance for the borough, as Surbiton athlete John Mark was given the honour of running the last leg of the torch's trip to London before lighting the Olympic flame to begin the games.

Get your event listed at yourlocalguardian.co.uk/events



Open: Alex Groves, Jonathan Smith, Jonathan Frett, Jack Binstead

Bidding for a new school

by MIKE DIDYMUS

mdidymus@london.newsquest.co.uk

It was celebration time in north Kingston last week, after Kingston Council announced plans to bid for a new secondary school.

After a 10-year campaign by parents frustrated at the Tiffin schools' stranglehold on places in the north of the borough, parents were thrilled at the news.

The council plans to bid for more than £100m of Government money from the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, seven years earlier than expected, and will build a 1,200-pupil school by 2014.

A bulge in primary school

pupil numbers, and sustained campaigns and pressure from parents this year, persuaded council officers more secondary places would be needed in the borough.

Lead campaigner Angela Norton-Bilsby said: "I'm not so naive to believe it was all to do with us but it's a big result nonetheless."

The plan also proposes major investment in existing secondary schools across the borough, including rebuilding Southborough and Tolworth

Girls' Schools on the latter site, remodelling Coombe Boys' and Hollyfield School before 2013, and investing in the borough's remaining secondary schools and special schools before 2016.

Key to the early bid for the cash is a partnership scheme with Croydon Council, which was due to enter the BSF scheme at this stage but was not considered "ready to deliver".

The council believes the joint application - the first of its type in London - gives it "a strong case for early entry" and will lead to significant savings on the cost of the scheme.

Patrick Leeson, director of the council's children's services, also cited the council's successful construction of the £23m Chessington Community College on time and on budget as an important factor.

Councillor Patricia Bamford, Kingston Council's lead member for education, said: "For a number of years there has been a great deal of debate about the need for a new secondary school in the borough, particularly in the north Kingston area."

Opposition Councillor Nick Kilby said: "Congratulations to parents for getting their arguments across, congratulations to Dennis Doe, and I'm shocked that it's taken the Lib Dems so long to concur."

The plans will go before the council's executive committee on December 9, with the Government making a decision on the application in spring 2009.

For much more on this story, buy this week's *Survey Comet*.

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Operation Athena hits

Kingston police have sought out suspected spouse beaters, violent offenders and antisocial folk in a sweep on such crimes in London.

Nine people were arrested in Kingston last week as part of the London-wide crackdown on domestic violence, homophobia and racism, called Operation Athena.

The operation saw a series of co-ordinated raids take place across the capital on Tuesday, November 25, to target prolific and violent offenders and officers from

Kingston arrested seven men and two women.

The raids took place to coincide with White Ribbon Day, a global campaign to challenge violence against women and there were a total of 240 arrests in London.

In addition to the raids, Kingston police set up a one-stop-shop on Monday, December 1, at Kingston Baptist Church, Union Street, to encourage victims of domestic violence to come forward.

Keep up to date with the debate yourlocalguardian.co.uk

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Paramedic struck off by tribunal after criticism

A paramedic has been removed from service for a string of failings while treating a fatal heart attack victim in New Malden.

Paul Manktelow was taken off service after a Health Professions Council tribunal on November 18.

It decided that he made a string of errors on the night of March 6 last year, when 73-year-old Norman Harrop had a heart attack and crashed in an Esso garage forecourt in New Malden.

Mistakes included failing to immediately move him and attempt to restart his heart, allowing an unqualified junior colleague to administer adrenaline and delaying basic and advanced life support until the patient was in the

by **MIKE DIDYMUS**

mdidymus@london.newsquest.co.uk

ambulance.

Mr Harrop's distraught widow Joan is demanding an apology, after she learned of the tribunal and errors in the paramedic's treatment when the Kingston Guardian visited her.

Supported by her close family, Mrs Harrop now wants a formal apology "from whoever is responsible" for being kept in the dark.

Mrs Harrop said: "You try to get on with your life, but life isn't the same and it's horrible to have it dredged up all over again."

"The police on the night said he was a hero."

"He could have done an

awful lot of damage, but he managed to drive the car into the petrol station and into the wall to stop anyone else getting hurt."

The family also wants an explanation from the London Ambulance Service over why they were not told of the investigation.

Mr Harrop's daughter Jo Keogh said: "To not let us know this was going on is disgraceful."

"This was already taking a long time to get over - it's always in the back of your mind."

"After 20 months to get this to come up makes it really raw again."

To read more local stories go to
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Missed: Norman Harrop

Waiting times too long

Psychiatric assessments at Kingston Hospital's accident and emergency are taking too long and the number of people attending with psychiatric problems is on the rise.

The service offers patients rapid access to mental health services by assessing on site patients with apparent problems.

But last year the service was reduced by Kingston Primary Care Trust, which holds the purse strings for the team, despite strong opposition from the hospital.

Acting chief executive Alan Pearce said: "At the moment, we find some-

times it is taking too long to get these assessments and the patients are staying in hospital too long."

A PCT spokesman said: "The PCT is aware that Kingston Hospital has been experiencing difficulties with patients admitted to the wards."

"The PCT is working to identify both gaps and solutions to some immediate issues, including the timely transfer of people from Kingston Hospital into psychiatric services."

Have your say on this story at
yourlocalguardian.co.uk

Repossession rate rising

The number of mortgage repossessions made in Kingston has increased by 27 per cent in the past year, and it is set to get worse, experts have warned.

Figures released last week

showed that 116 mortgage possession orders and 142 landlord possession orders were issued between July and September to people in Kingston, Elmbridge, Wimbledon and Hampton.

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Switching on with Santa



Happy faces: Santa and a helper with (centre) Sophie Anderson Deadlinepix KT24060

by ALITA HOWE

ahowe@london.newsquest.co.uk

Windows on advent calendars are opening and the festive season is in full swing, after Surbiton and New Malden switched on their Christmas lights.

Hundreds of families descended on Surbiton station on Thursday, November 27, to see the lights switched on by Father Christmas himself.

Music included a carol concert from Maple Infants School, Christ Church Primary School and St Andrew's and St Mark's Church choir and Borough Brass were also on hand to keep the crowds entertained.

More than 400 mince pies were handed out to the crowd by Waitrose and children were kept amused with fairground rides, a Christmas craft workshop and balloon modelling.

Santa also did the honours in New Malden on Friday, November 28.

A special parade was organised from Fountain roundabout to St George's Square where the lights



Having fun: Matthew Cormack, Charlie Hudson, Isobel Gilligan and Rachel Green Deadlinepix KT23897

were magically switched on as Santa passed in his sleigh.

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Seasons greetings: Stallholder Lyndsey Deadlinepix KT24060

Finger puppets, fresh flowers, handmade cards and fair-trade gifts were all on offer at the Hook Centre's Christmas craft fair on Saturday.

Visitors were treated to a range of stalls with a range of one-off gifts for all the family.

Among the stall holders was Walton resident Ida Horner, selling a selection of ethically-sourced products through her company Ethnic Supplies.

Kingston Museum staff were also at the library in Hook Road, Hook, with advice on how to delve into people's past and an introduction to their selection of resources.

Fascinating stories about gods and monsters plunged children into the world of Ancient Greece and mask-making sessions were also on offer to keep them entertained throughout the day.



Blooming great: Anita sold flowers at the fair Deadlinepix KT24060

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Doc's drug theft was a 'cry for help'

A New Malden doctor has been suspended for six months, after he stole vials of morphine from a hospital ward and was convicted of drink-driving, a medical tribunal decided last week.

Dr Omar Ahmed, who lives in New Malden, told police he wanted to kill himself because of the pressures of the job and had stolen the vials as a "cry for help", the General Medical Council (GMC) hearing heard last week.

Dr Ahmed was caught drink-driving seven months later, after downing cocktails and tequila, and admitted at the hearing that his fitness to practise was "impaired".

The panel ruled on November 25 that Dr Ahmed should be suspended for six months but did not opt for the maximum period of 12 months to avoid a "disproportionate interruption" to his career.

The hearing was told Dr Ahmed was convicted of four counts of theft, for which he received a 12-month community order, after he stole seven vials of morphine while working as a doctor at the

by ALITA HOWE

ahowe@london.newsquest.co.uk

East Kent Hospital University NHS Trust in April 2006.

On November 8, 2007, at City of Westminster Magistrates' Court, Dr Ahmed, who now works as a doctor at the Royal Hospital, Bath, was fined £525 and disqualified for 12 months for drink-driving.

The panel said the gravity of Dr Ahmed's convictions represented a "breach of trust" placed in him by his employers and patients.

Chairman of the panel Kevin Walters said he was concerned about Dr Ahmed's pattern of behaviour during his period of offending.

He said: "You have described your drink-driving as 'poor judgement, a terrible mistake' but the panel is not satisfied that you have adequate insight into the seriousness of your actions."

What do you think about the decision to suspend the doctor? Have your say online in our chat forum at yourlocalguardian.co.uk



VIP: Little Princess meets fans at John Lewis

Deadline: KT23778

Royal turns up for books

Christmas shoppers had a Royal treat when a princess dropped in recently.

Bestselling author Tony Ross was in Kingston's John Lewis on November 22 to read excerpts from his award winning book, Little Princess, and was joined by the heroine herself. Mr Ross said: "I was very

pleased to receive the Royal summons from Little Princess to join her for her very first visit to see the VIPs (Very Important Princes and Princesses) of Kingston."

Are you in the picture? Buy a copy at yourlocalguardian.co.uk

Family complaint after mother's cancer care

The family of a New Malden woman who died in St George's Hospital have complained about the treatment they received.

Brenda Jackson died in June, aged 74, of pancreatic, liver and lymph node cancer, but her family claimed they had to deal with rudeness from some nurses and said one refused to talk to them because of "professional confidentiality".

Mrs Jackson's son Nick said: "It was distressing to

see she wasn't being given proper care."

St George's Hospital said it was investigating the case and would report its findings to the family.

A spokesman said: "This is a sad time for Brenda Jackson's family as they mourn her death, and we are sorry for the additional distress that making this complaint has caused. We would like to assure them that we take feedback from patients and relatives seriously."

Beer thief told 'sort it out'

A thirsty thief has pleaded guilty to a bungled Budgens burglary in September, which resulted in £600-worth of damage.

Appearing at Kingston Magistrates' Court on Thursday, November 28, Stephen Butler, 23, from Surbiton, admitted to smashing the shop window in Hook Road and helping himself to a crate of lager and four packets of chewing gum to the value of £9.79.

He was by caught by police after he cut his leg on the broken glass and left traces of blood at the scene.

Kingston magistrates heard he had broken into the shop before and, on the day in question, had drunk up to 15 cans of alcohol. His defence solicitor said: "He

had an alcohol dependency problem but he now says he is on a straight road.

"He has been in a relationship since September and his partner is expecting a child in March."

The court was told of factors leading to his problems with alcohol, including losing his father at 16 and being diagnosed with cancer of the spleen in the same year. Butler was given a conditional 12-month discharge and was ordered to pay for the goods he stole as well as £100 towards the broken window.

Magistrate Mr Wood told Butler: "We noted the fact you're trying to get on top of your drinking problem, which you need to continue doing. Get your life in order, we don't want to see you again."

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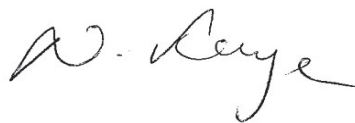
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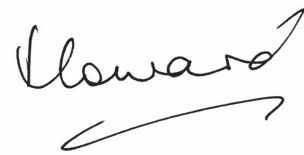
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Over the next three weeks, we'll be printing three separate questions in the build-up to Christmas in your local Guardian newspaper. Then a final question will appear on our special online 'edition' at the website shown below.

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of your Christmas local Guardian just like the real thing – you just turn the pages with a click of your mouse.

While there, you'll be able to submit your competition entry, instantly online, saving you a stamp. You'll also find the three questions that will be printed in the paper over the

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The first of which is ...

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If you can't wait until Christmas week, you could always take a sneak look at our e-edition today.

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Pay up within 30 days

The Listen to Business Campaign has stepped up its pressure on local councils by demanding they pay local businesses within 30 days.

An open letter to the chief executives in all 12 south London boroughs, asked them to confirm their payment terms.

The letter said: "In this time of economic challenge it is clear that some of the solutions to the problems business face are local, some regional and some national... One of the issues we will examine is whether public bodies are paying the invoices of small and medium sized businesses

within 30 days of receipt."

A Kingston Council spokesman said: "In common with other local authorities, Kingston Council aims to pay all of its undisputed invoices within 30 days."

"To assist local businesses during the current economic climate, the council has introduced an initiative whereby we now endeavour to pay all local businesses within 10 working days. To achieve this we need businesses who have not already done so to agree to receive payment via BACS directly into their bank accounts."

Businesses could benefit from £300m renewal pot

by PAUL CAHALAN

pcahalan@london.newsquest.co.uk

South London businesses could benefit from a £300m pot to fund the regeneration of town centres, the Mayor of London's deputy has said.

Sir Simon Milton, deputy mayor for policy and planning, made the comments at a meeting in London for business leaders on November 21, where he also told the audience it was time south London looked beyond borough boundaries.

"We will look at what is needed to help four or five hubs to take off."

"We may be able to crush together pots of money in the Greater London Authority family, which would yield £200m to £300m, and will look at how best it can be used," he said.

"I met yesterday with south London boroughs to discuss a grouping based on Bromley, Croydon, Sutton, Merton, Wandsworth, Kingston and Richmond. It is important to note that we don't want to shoehorn co-ordination of all activities into a single set of boundaries – this is not a one-size-fits-all structure."

He said Mayor Boris Johnson's new Outer London Commission was a vital voice for south London, and a full re-



Regeneration: Sir Simon Milton has a wider vision of south London's future



view of the London Plan (governing future planning law and objectives) would be in place by the end of 2011.

Sir Simon underlined the importance of Crossrail, and said economic growth was un-

derpinned by good transport infrastructure, and that the Oyster pay-as-you-go system would be rolled out to all rail stations to zone 6 next year.

Peter Pledger, chief executive of South London Business – which represents businesses across south London – said 80 people were expected in the meeting, but more than 100 attended.

He said: "I was delighted

with the positive response of Sir Simon to the challenges we have presently for businesses in south London, and believe we can work together to tackle development needs for the benefit of communities across the 12 boroughs."

What would you ask Boris Johnson to do about the current crisis? Leave your comments at yourlocal-guardian.co.uk/news/business/listentobusiness

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Visit Smithfield – a world famous market

Smithfield is a well-known name belonging to a world-famous market: a place etched into the history of the City of London and something for Londoners to be proud of.

Specialising in meat and poultry, the market is open to the meat trade and to the public every weekday morning from 3am. Customers can walk through the market to choose from the goods on display or businesses can place orders in advance for collection during opening hours.

The connection between meat and this area of London goes back centuries. There was a live animal market here for nearly 700 years between 1174 and 1852.

The buildings you can see today date back to the 1860s, when they were designed by the Victorian Architect Sir Horace Jones, who also designed Tower Bridge. However, where once the market had its own railway sidings and meat was moved on barrows and the backs of bummares (porters), today's operations are rather different.

Nowadays meat is brought to the market in refrigerated lorries and is delivered through sealed loading bays into temperature-controlled stalls and the whole market meets the latest European Hygiene Regulations.

Nearly 120,000 tons of goods pass through the market every year.



Once inside, lamb, pork and beef are cut into joints or catering portions and sold alongside poultry and other provisions – such as haggis.

Smithfield is located in the 'Square Mile' of the City of London, just five minutes from St Bartholomew's Hospital, the Barbican and the Old Bailey.

The Church of St Bartholomew the Great, where 'Four Weddings and a Funeral' was filmed, is just

across the road, as is the site where William Wallace (think Braveheart and Mel Gibson) was hung, drawn and quartered.

This is one of London's traditional early-morning sights. Be sure to visit early: Smithfield is in full swing while others are still asleep. Enjoy the banter and bustle – then enjoy breakfast in one of the many nearby pubs, which open early to serve market staff and customers.

Kate Brenneke and her business partner Mike Keating have taken over the run-down Bricklayers Arms in Hawks Road. They flung open the doors just three weeks ago, and have ambitious plans to turn the newly kitted-out gastro pub into a thriving Kingston pub. Kate spoke to ALITA HOWE

Pub's makeover aims to build up trade

What was the pub like when you took it over?

It was getting to the point where people were not coming in, but a lick of paint and new ownership have made all the difference.

What work did you have to do?

We shut for five weeks and stripped the floor, cleared the outdoor area and completely redecorated. It's been tough because we're effectively a start-up business but it has been great to see some of the old customers coming back in and saying they like it.

What plans have you got for the place?

The garden is a fantastic open space and we are going to have live music every Saturday, a barbecue in the summer and a children's play area.

I want to start a book club here because we have a great nook that is perfect for it and it would be great to have local



Full of ambition: Mike and Kate are keen to turn the pub around Deadlinepix CG0517

groups in here. We are going to have acoustic sessions throughout the winter in the main bar too.

We saw the pub as a great opportunity – Kingston is a very up-and-coming place and has a great atmosphere.

We want to make this place family friendly. We know that with the smoking ban the clientele has changed and people don't come in for a whisky and a cigarette anymore.

You used to be a management consultant. How are you finding life behind the bar?

It's amazing fun. I am originally from Oregon and we hosted a big Thanksgiving dinner here on November 27, using all of my mom's traditional recipes, such as pumpkin pie and candied yams.

Being a management consultant is all about possibilities and this place is full of possibilities, so it is going to be an exciting challenge.

Are you worried about setting up a new business in the current economic climate?

It is such a shame that pubs are shutting down across the country. When you don't have local community pubs there won't be local communities anymore.

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New look: The Bricklayers Arms is going for a family-friendly approach

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Stroke victims may face longer journeys

Critically-ill stroke victims could face longer ambulance journeys to London hospitals from Kingston, if plans to concentrate services in seven hospitals are pushed through.

Kingston Hospital is bidding to develop a 12-bed hyper-acute unit for serious strokes, a 24/7 "mini-stroke" attack service, and more advanced rehabilitation for sufferers at its Galsworthy Road site.

However, it will need to persuade Healthcare for London to expand its plans to have 14 stroke care hubs, rather than the seven currently being considered.

If Kingston is unsuccessful, some more serious stroke patients will face journeys to St George's Hospital, Tooting, or Charing Cross Hos-

by **DAVID LINDSELL**

d.lindsell@london.newsquest.co.uk

pital for emergency treatment.

Alan Pearce, acting chief executive at Kingston Hospital, said: "It is not for lots and lots of individuals but we believe it wouldn't be as good a service for people around Kingston and that is why we are proposing this and we hope Healthcare for London carefully considers it."

Sandra Berry, chairman of patient watchdog K-Link, said she had no confidence that patients could get to St George's within the 30-minute time stated by Healthcare for London.

She added: "I have just been to St George's and it took me longer. If

you cannot do it, patients are not being served."

But a spokesman for the Stroke Association backed the proposals, saying: "We know that no decisions have been made as to which hospitals will provide particular levels of stroke care."

"But delivering better stroke care across the capital will require hospitals, the ambulance service, primary care trusts and the voluntary sector to work together across boundaries."

There will be a public consultation over the changes in stroke care in the new year, after the bids have been decided. A final decision is expected in July.

For details of healthcare in your area, visit yourlocalguardian.co.uk/li

Mayor congratulates young athletes

The 31 young Kingston athletes who scooped medals at the London Youth Games were honoured with a reception in the mayor's parlour last week.

Mayor of Kingston Councillor David Berry invited the winners to tea at his Guildhall

parlour on Tuesday, November 25, before the group was presented to the full council meeting and congratulated on their achievements.

The six gold medals included two for wheelchair racer Jonathan Smith.

There were victories for Jess Cosson in archery, Alan Booth in swimming, Luke Robeson in karate and Ross Harding in trampolining.

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Honoured: (From left) Jessica Painter, Duncan Garner and William Wilson

Deadlinepix KT23761

Pay to park using card

Surbiton station has been chosen to trial cashless payment in its car park. From December 8, drivers will be able to dial a telephone number and pay with their debit or credit card.

Surbiton is one of 10 South West Trains car parks doing the six-month trial. If successful, it will be rolled out across all stations.

Tasers for specialists only

The Metropolitan Police will not be allowed to give Tasers to non-specialist officers.

A Metropolitan Police Authority spokesman said: "We recognise the potential to cause fear and damage public confidence if the use of Tasers is extended to non-specialist trained police officers. In the Met, only trained and supervised specialist officers may deploy Tasers."

Tasers, which incapacitate their

victims with 50,000 volts of electricity, were used in Kingston to catch a murder suspect who police believed had an Uzi machine gun and to free a kidnap victim, the Surrey Comet revealed earlier this year.

Kingston police fired a stun gun five times in the borough since their introduction. One was used to catch the man who killed Sean "Stretch" Jenkins with a shotgun at a party in Carshalton.

Charity quiz raises £2,258

Local businesses pitted their wits against each other and raised £2,258 for a local children's cancer charity by holding a quiz night.

The event, for Momentum in Kingston, was organised by

Kingston accountancy firm Menzies and was held at Imber Court, East Molesey, earlier this month.

A total of 37 teams competed and solicitor WH Matthews from Sutton beat them all.

The right note

A Tolworth singer and songwriter has won a contract with record label Ninja Tune.

Jono McCleery launched his first album Darkest Light in Surbiton earlier this year and plans to make a new one with his label's support.

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Bus driver judged simply the best

Tolworth bus driver Nelio Rebelo-Goncalves has been judged the best bus driver in London.

The driver, who normally drives the K5 route from Ham to New Malden, had double cause to celebrate on Tuesday, November 18, because his first child was born on the same day.

Mr Rebelo-Goncalves, 38, was praised by bosses for his "politeness, unruffled charm, care for elderly people and rapport with school children".



Top driver: Nelio Rebelo-Goncalves

Deadlinepix KT23959

Polish man drowned after heavy drinking

A Polish bar worker who drowned in the Thames at Kingston after a heavy drinking session probably stopped to urinate before falling into the exceptionally cold water, an inquest concluded on November 11.

Andrzej Czepczor fell into the river on April 29 this year after leaving a nearby club just after 2am.

People saw him disappear under the surface following a short attempt at swimming to safety.

by MIKE DIDYMUS

mdidymus@london.newsquest.co.uk

Police recovered his body just over 12 hours later following an extensive search involving the coastguard, two fire and rescue boats, a police helicopter and officers from the Kingston service scouring the riverbanks.

Coroner Alison Thompson recorded a verdict of accidental death for Mr Czepczor, who was living in Kingston Hill after travelling to England from his

home town of Poznan, Poland.

Since Mr Czepczor's death, Kingston's riverside bars and clubs have been involved in training sessions to help rescue and resuscitate people in trouble in the water.

McClusky's nightclub, the closest club and bar to Kingston Bridge, has invested in a Perry line flotation device to help people get safely back to dry land.

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Take advantage of special deals

Surrey Aquatics and Reptiles is a new retail outlet that opened in mid November. The business has been in existence since 2003 providing pond maintenance and construction together with aquarium supply and management. Surrey Aquatics also boasts a highly successful telephone and on-line mail order business.

Surrey Aquatics and Reptiles offers a wide range of tropical fish, a smaller range of cold water fish (this will be expanded when the pond season begins in March/April together with a comprehensive

range of tropical, cold water and marine foods, additives and treatments.

Surrey Aquatics and Reptiles is proud to be a Tetra Elite Retailer and offers the full range of Tetra products including CO2 systems to aid and enhance plant growth.

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A spokesman for the company said: "We offer all the accessories that you would expect from a top aquatic centre, from food and water treatments

right through to top of the range power filters and high tech lighting.

"Since Disney's Finding Nemo was released in cinemas, there has been a huge increase in people wanting to keep marine fish, this is because of the amount of unusual, colourful and different species available. Tell your children the good news - Nemo can be found at Lynwood Aquatics for just £12 to £15."

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The Maypole Public House and Lodge in Surbiton is currently offering a 10 per cent discount on all meals for up to six people with the voucher in its advertisement on this page.

The pub is gaining a popular following for the standard of food

produced by its first rate chef. You can enjoy everything from a three course meal to a finger buffet, sandwich or food in the basket.

There are vegetarian options and children's meals too. Prices are reasonable with a two course meal costing £16.95 or a three course option for £18.95. The Maypole also has a pool table and dart board.

So if you are looking for a pub with a friendly atmosphere, where you can play a game of pool or darts, or watch the live television coverage of sport or simply enjoy a meal and a drink then the Maypole is the place to come.

The Maypole
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Surbiton, KT6 5BH
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The Kingston Laser clinic has a reputation for its specialist care and affordable pricing, complete with free consultations.

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All the clinic's services are undertaken by registered nurses and qualified therapists. During December, Kingston Laser Clinic is offering 50 per cent off client's initial treatments.

Kingston Laser Clinic offer a huge range of treatments including:

- laser hair removal
- thread vein removal
- colonic irrigation
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Still time to learn about Tesco plan

I would like to thank all those who took the opportunity to attend the public exhibition we held on November 21 and 22, displaying the new proposals by Tesco for the former MoD site in Tolworth.

Nearly 600 residents came through the door to learn more about the proposals and it was very helpful for us to have the chance to explain the proposals directly to local people.

A number of those I spoke to could see the benefits of the changes that we have been able to make since the original application in 2007, including the major improvements for Tolworth Roundabout and the reduction in building height.

Tesco will now carefully analyse the feedback we received in advance of submitting its planning application for the site.

If you were unable to attend the exhibition but want to find out more about Tesco's proposals for Tolworth, then please contact either myself on 01992 632222, or Erika Bugnar at Green Issues Communications on 0118 9839461.

JAMES WIGGAM
Tesco Corporate
affairs manager

Such good stagecraft

As a teacher, educator and practitioner of drama, I recently took my drama students from years 10 to 13 to a wonderful production of *A Doll's House*, directed by Peter Hall at the Rose Theatre, Kingston.

The students loved the production, the actors, the theatre and the friendly manner of the staff at the Rose. The discussions that took place back in the classroom were invaluable to the students.

Their understanding of the text, its themes and issues has shot up tenfold.

They also commented on the high quality of acting and the production itself. Well done, Rose Theatre, Kingston.

LINDA ARTHUR
Head of drama
Queen's Gate School

Keep up to date with the debate

Have your say on all the latest news

**yourlocal
guardian.co.uk**

Good support but the Rose Theatre is spending madly

It is wonderful to see how passionate and supportive people are towards the Rose Theatre.

But, when other services have been cut or reduced, how can the council continue to justify the amount of money it is given?

The Rose is a business and not a charity.

It clearly cannot sustain itself in its present state and should review what it can provide to the community at no extra cost.

It is worth bearing in mind a brief history of the Rose as council leader Derek Osborne stated no money

would come from the taxpayer.

Construction works started in 2001 and were completed in 2002 by St George Plc, costing £2.3m.

£3.5m investment needed to fit it out. Sir Peter Hall appointed artistic director in 2003. Arts Council refuses to provide funds.

The council commits another £3m required to fit out and open the theatre, which was completed in 2007.

The 900-seat theatre opens in January 2008, over budget by £850,000. The building is worth £6m.

The cost of fitting out by public donations and loans from Kingston Council was estimated at over £8m. Calls for the leader of the council to resign, but he states the "public purse strings are shut".

Sir Peter Hall resigns less than a month after opening, to the shock of many residents. Stephen Unwin takes over.

In March, business is booming, with ticket sales exceeding expectations. Drapers' car park is renamed the Rose, at a cost of £5,000. Health and safety concerns cost the taxpayer another £350,000.

Rose bosses dismiss claims

that it faces a cash crisis, but say its long-term future depends on major sponsors or public funds.

£48,000 is secured from the Art Council England, the theatre's first major external funding.

In November, the Rose Theatre announces that it needs £600,000 from the council to remain open.

The Rose has become Kingston's own version of the Millennium Dome. When will this madness stop?

DANIEL GOODGER
Chessington

Same old rubbish questions

An open letter to Kingston council.

In the past I have asked whether you will, at some point, get around to initiating recycling collections for the block of flats where I live.

We have a paper recycling bin on the estate but that's all. We don't get collection of glass, cardboard, plastics etc that other borough residents get.

Past replies to my questions included comments such as "the recycling vehicle is too large to collect on your estate" (it's smaller than the main waste collection vehicle) and "it's not in the contract with the current waste collection contractor, but we'll look into it for future contracts".

Well, we now seem to have a new contractor collecting our waste, at times that is, as frequently our waste bins are overflowing because of non-collection and foxes and cats make a mess scrounging through bags left outside the waste bins.



Recycling questions: 'Is it legal to collect council tax but not the rubbish it pays to collect?'

Deadlineix CG0485

And we still don't have the recycling collection that other residents get.

I do as much as I can to recycle. I drive to the council tip (or whatever fancy name you wish to call it), so I'm not only paying for collection which doesn't happen but also fuel costs and my time.

The residents here pay the same council tax rates as everyone else, which includes

collection of recyclable materials.

Some questions:

1. Is it legal for you to charge for a service in your council tax which you don't provide? Your comments would be appreciated but a straight "yes" or "no" answer to the question is asked for.

2. Will you give a rebate for recycling collection services charged for over past

years but not supplied?

3. When do you intend to start collection of recyclable materials from our estate?

Hopefully you can give some positive answers rather than just the usual "we're looking into it" reply.

JOHN PACKMAN
Acacia Grove
New Malden

Collections are proving a real waste

A week ago my green box was not collected.

I rang the recycling department at 2.45pm in case the van was still in the area and it was suggested that I left the tops on my glass bottles.

I assured the gentleman that I had no bottles in my box. "It will be collected within the next two days", he said, "so could I put it out at 6.30am and retrieve it at 7pm?"

I left my home at 2.55pm and saw a collecting van at the top of my road, about 30 seconds away, so I was sure it would have been collected upon my return. But no.

Friday and Saturday I got up at 6.30am (not my usual rising time) and put the box out, but on Monday it was still there.

So, I spoke to another person, who said it would definitely be collected, "they are very busy and it is on the computer for collection."

I pointed out that there was a collection van in the area on the Thursday, but was told that they cannot deviate from their specific route. I would have walked it up myself if I had not been in a hurry to get somewhere on time.

On Tuesday, I spoke to a third person, who assured me again that today would be the day.

I pointed out that I was keeping my side of the bargain by putting the box out at 6.30am, but no one was keeping their side of the bargain. Again, nothing happened.

I then rang on Wednesday and was put through to a Jim Brennon, who goes by the title of transitional services manager. I got his answerphone, so I left my number.

Eventually, a very polite young lady rang me to say Jim Brennon was too busy to speak to me, but assured me it would be picked up that afternoon - it was.

Just another example of a complete waste of council tax and my time and money in having to make four calls before something was done.

**NAME AND ADDRESS
SUPPLIED**

Money pit not so rosy

Our poverty-pleading council has decided to give yet more of taxpayers' money to subsidise an economically unviable theatre.

Isn't it time to change its name from the Rose to the Money Pit?

DAVID BENNETT
Via email

Judges choice 'laughable'

The Kingston Society's decision to present a townscape award to the developers of Surbiton Plaza has left many residents who have to live near that building seething, myself included.

The only award it deserves is for the development that is most out of keeping with its surroundings.

The society laughably described it as a "modest building" and "beautifully detailed".

Presumably they were not referring to the fact that it is six-storeys high or to the brutalist external wall, which overlooks the Victorian houses in Cottage Grove.

Perhaps the out of touch committee of the Kingston Society should seek the views of ordinary residents before making any further awards.

BRIAN WILSON
Surbiton



'Brutalist': Surbiton Plaza, St Mary's Road, Surbiton

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Letters may be edited
for reasons of space.

'Greenest' B&Q store creates 200 new jobs

by LOUISE ROBERTSON

lrobertson@london.newsquest.co.uk

The grand opening of New Malden's flagship green store on Shannon Corner is expected to take place early in the new year.

The old New Malden and Wimbledon B&Q stores have merged to create the new, environmentally-friendly superstore, creating more than 200 jobs in the process.

It is the most sustainable B&Q store to date, with recycled plastics in the toilets and low VOC paints throughout the building.

The 150,000sq ft plot is filled with sustainable features to reduce its carbon footprint, and it is a new model built over three floors to save valuable urban space.

A wind turbine, the largest integrated turbine on any UK building, will generate the store's electricity while an under-floor geothermal system will provide heating.

Photovoltaic panels will convert solar energy into electricity and solar thermal water will provide heating for the toilets and coffee shop.

The green theme even extends to the roof, where a natural covering will absorb carbon dioxide while protecting it from the weather.

General manager Mark Dove said: "We've got some very loyal customers around here and it's a great area to trade."

"The store will be the first of its kind to trial all these green fea-



Eco-friendly: The new-look store at Shannon Corner

tures under one roof.

"It will lower our costs in the long-term and give something back to the community."

"It will be a challenge too be-

cause of its size."

The store is due to open on January 29.

For more green news visit www.green Guardian.co.uk



Enjoy complimentary wine at the Gullwing Restaurant.

With its first-class menu and elegant surroundings, the Gullwing Restaurant at Mercedes-Benz World is one of Surrey's most unique and rewarding dining experiences. And right now, it's even more attractive, with a complimentary glass of wine* for all diners.

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*Offer valid until 31st December 2008, available to adults (over 18 years). One complimentary glass of house wine per person, minimum purchase of a two-course meal (starter and main course or main course and dessert) per person. Available on bookings up to four persons in the Gullwing Restaurant, Mercedes-Benz World. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

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Rabbi's journey from bar to the synagogue

by ALITA HOWE

ahowe@london.newsquest.co.uk

Rabbi Charley Baginsky has just been ordained at Kingston Liberal Synagogue (KLS) and is relishing the challenge of making the synagogue a vibrant, modern centre for the community.

Rabbi Baginsky grew up in a progressive Jewish family in Watford and said the leap from practising the faith to wanting to make it a career was a natural step.

She said: "You don't tell people you want to be a rabbi growing up – it sounds a bit bonkers. But I had inspirational rabbis in my life growing up who planted the idea in my head that it was a possibility."

"I went to Israel and being a Jew there is very different because it is such a way of life and part of the culture."

Rabbi Baginsky's path to becoming a religious leader has been far from traditional and she spent time running bars in Israel – one of which was later blown up by a terrorist bomb in 2003.

"There were explosions but it didn't feel like I was living in a war zone," she said. "You had to get on the bus because you had to travel and you had to go to work because you had to earn a living."

Some people are surprised she once ran a bar, but she said the experience was invaluable to her religious work.

She said: "Israel shaped my identity and what I could bring to the



Read all about it: Rabbi Charley Baginsky has been ordained at Kingston Liberal Synagogue

Deadlinepix EL23906

rabbinic. Running a bar and being a rabbi aren't that different. Both involve talking to people, managing difficult situations and creating an atmosphere that feels like home."

After completing a theology degree Rabbi Baginsky enrolled on a five-year rabbinical course which

took in another year in Israel, this time Haifa.

Rabbi Baginsky now lives in Surbiton with her partner, an advertising creative who converted to the faith last year.

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In partnership with Kingston Council

Secure funding for your park

by SEAN DUGGAN

sduggan@london.newsquest.co.uk

The Mayor of London's new director of environmental policy is urging people to vote for their local park in the Mayor's £6m parks give-away.

Speaking to this paper last week, Isabel Dedring said this was a fantastic opportunity to secure £400,000 worth of improvements to a park under the Help a London Park scheme.

She explained that at least one park in every borough in south-west London has been placed on a shortlist "based on need and where the money could make the biggest improvement".

The two parks which receive the most votes in south-west London between now and January 30 will each receive the money.

At the same time, one large park in London will be selected by Mayor Boris Johnson's team to receive £2m.

In Kingston, the shortlisted park is King Edwards Recreation Ground, Hook. Kingston Council said if it was successful, the money would be used

to restore the formal rose garden back to its former glory, repair the Edwardian wrought iron railings and drinking fountain, install outdoor fitness equipment and adapt the tennis courts into a multi-use games area.

Councillor Bob Steed, executive member for environment, sustainability and climate change at Kingston Council, said: "The recreation ground has the potential to become a focal point for the local community once again, but significant investment is needed to achieve this."

"The Help a London Park competition is a great opportunity to raise the funds required to breathe life back into this wonderful space."

"But there are 46 other very worthy parks fighting for the prize money. If we are to stand a chance, we need residents to get online or pick up their

mobile phones and vote for King Edwards Recreation Ground."

The money has been found from efficiency savings in the Mayor's publicity budget, something Mr Johnson pledged to do if elected.

The launch of the scheme coincided with the Mayor's first major speech on the environment since being elected, when he outlined a raft of measures designed to create a green economy in London.

These included the creation of combined heat and power plants, the conversion of waste into energy, the creation of 10 new Low Carbon Zones and the use of the Mayor's powers to drive forward energy efficiency measures in homes and businesses plus electric vehicles.

□ You can vote online for a park at london.gov.uk/parksvote, via a postal vote form obtainable on 020 7983 4100, or by text. Text "parks"

Your local Green Reporter

If you have any green news stories, get in touch with Alita Howe on 020 8330 9548 email ahowe@london.newsquest.co.uk

Top Tip

□ Take part in the National Climate March in London on December 6. The event is the largest annual mobilisation of environmentalists in the UK and will be part of a global day of action on climate change. For more information, see campaignccc.org

□ Have you got any green top tips (50 words max please)? Post them at greenguardian.co.uk by clicking on Get Involved and then Top Tips.

The Big Picture

□ Barack Obama last week renewed his pledge to make a decisive break from George Bush's environmental policies by using a summit, organised by the governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger, to promise a "new chapter in America's leadership on climate change".

In his address, the president-elect accused Mr Bush of failing to show leadership on the issue of climate change and then laid out an ambitious agenda aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. He also reiterated a campaign pledge to invest \$15bn each year in the development of clean technology.

South-west London shortlist

- Norbury Park with Thornton Heath (Croydon)
- Wandle Park (Croydon)
- King Edwards Park (Kingston)
- Kennington Park (Lambeth)
- Spring Gardens (Lambeth)
- Ravensbury Park (Merton)
- Crane Valley Park (Richmond/Hounslow)
- Wandle Valley with St Helier open spaces (Sutton)
- King Georges Park (Wandsworth)
- Latchmere Recreation Ground (Wandsworth)

and your postcode to short code 62967. This will automatically vote for the closest park to you. Texts cost 10p plus your standard network rate.

ECONews

STRATEGY FEEDBACK: Residents can now comment on Kingston Council's draft energy strategy during a six-week consultation period. The strategy is part of the council's commitment to have a climate change strategy in place by 2009. For a copy and comment form, visit kingston.gov.uk/energy. Copies will also be available in all Kingston libraries. Additional comments on the strategy can be sent to energystrategy@rbk.kingston.gov.uk before the consultation ends on December 16.

GARDEN WAR: Richmond Park MP Susan Kramer has accused back garden developers of staging "guerilla war". In the House of Commons last week, MPs persuaded the Government to conduct a review into the legal classification of back gardens.

Award pics

All the photographs from the Green Guardian gala awards evening are now up on our website, plus the video shot on the night. Go to www.greenguardian.co.uk and click on awards.

Q

Each week we will ask a question on a green-related subject. This week:

&

How many years does it take for a plastic bag to break down?

A

Last week's answer: In 2005, Britain spent £29.3bn on ethical products including organic food, free range eggs and green energy which overshadowed the £28bn we spent on cigarettes and alcohol.

Legal victory means no police needed for Critical Mass

Kingston green campaigner Des Kay has scored an historic victory to ensure that cyclists who descend on London for mass rides do not have to give advance notice to the police.

Mr Kay, a former Green Guardian green champion and co-founder of the Save the World Club, helped overturn a decision by the Court of Appeal, after the Metropolitan Police said they should be given notice of the routes being taken by Critical Mass riders.

The group's rides have taken place on the last Friday of every month since 1984 and Mr Kay, who was supported by the Friends of the Earth's rights and justice centre, said it was a victory for cyclists everywhere.



In tandem: Des Kay, right, in his role as one of the "Green Police", at a Kingston University fresher's fair in September

Deadline: XT22751

We make a lot less rubbish

The amount of rubbish produced by Kingston households fell by 5.5 per cent last year, according to the latest figures.

Statistics produced by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) show that between April 2007 and March 2008, Kingston was the third best performing borough for household waste reduction in London.

Councillor Derek Osbourne, leader of Kingston Council, said the reduc-

tion had saved £150,000 taxpayers' money in waste disposal costs.

He said: "This is fantastic news for the borough."

"One of the key aims of the new recycling and landfill waste collection service is to encourage residents to think more carefully about the amount of waste they produce in the first place."

"So I am confident that next year's official Defra figures will again tell a good story for Kingston."

Crafty fun for everyone

Everyone is invited to a craft session being organised by Transition Town Kingston this Sunday.

The group will meet at Kingston Environment Centre, Fairfield East, from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Sunday, December 7.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served and people can bring materials to use with them.

Green Guardian is grateful to the following companies for their generous sponsorship:





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Then and now: M&S staff in 1988 and, right, Maria Meredith, Sue Clary, Sue Reynolds and Debbie Blake have been there since the start Deadlinepix KT2396

This is not just any anniversary

by KERRY GROVE

kgrove@london.newsquest.co.uk

In these tumultuous times for Tolworth's retailers, with Tesco's plans again coming to the fore, one of the area's iconic stores celebrated its 20th birthday recently.

Marks and Spencer has been operating at the base of Tolworth Tower since November 29, 1988, and demand on opening day was so great that fights broke out in the aisles.

To celebrate the anniversary, staff held a series of 1980s-themed events. Four original staff members, who watched the changes since day one, have helped organise a party for 160 current and former workers and a charity raffle, which raised £1,000 for charity.

The birthday celebrations tied in with the recent expansion and refurbishment of the shop, unveiled on October 22, when a new clothes range and wine and cheese sections were added.

Maria Meredith, 52, who has worked for Marks and Spencer on and off for 26 years, recalled the excitement of the store opening, when 5,500 curious people piled in on the first day. An average 3,500 people filled the shop every day over the next month in the run-up to Christmas.

The store was celebrated as bringing a "new era of prosperity for the hitherto beleaguered shopping centre" in the report of its opening in the December 9 edition of our sister paper the Surrey Comet.

The conversion of the supermarket,

A beeline for her favourite chocs!



Early days: Our coverage of the store's opening in 1988

which used to be a Fine Fare, took more than three months. Fine Fare was the first ground floor tenant of Tolworth Tower, which opened in 1963, and held the title as the largest food store in Europe at the time.

The tower itself received national attention at the time for being the tallest office block in the Home Counties, standing at 235 feet above the bypass.

□ Buy this week's Surrey Comet to find out why one customer ended up in one of the store's fridges.

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WHAT'S ON THIS WINTER

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See inside for further details

What's on

Fun throughout the

WINTER SEASON

and into 2009

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Tina's toning class

Professional dancer Tina Gamble is showing others how they can improve their fitness and tone up with her body toning class.

Tina has been dancing since she was three, became a professional dancer at 16 and danced at the Moulin Rouge in Paris.

Now she runs a body toning class which consists of a warm-up routine followed by

exercises for the lower body, stomach and buttocks followed by a stretch and relaxation session to end with.

"I can help you look good and feel better about yourself with no commitment or membership. People can just turn up and have fun with a great group of ladies," she said.

Her class is held at Mole Hall, Molesey, on Mondays from 7-8pm.



Dip into salsa

If you are interested in learning how to salsa call Philippe on 07720 517677.

He is currently running classes for beginners and improvers.

The lessons last an hour and are followed by free-style practice dancing.

"Salsa is a fantastic fun dance for all age groups. You will make friends and keep fit. No partner is required, so come on your own or with friends and we will pair you up," he said.

"You don't have to book in advance just pay as you go, all for only £5.

With an introductory offer of two for the price of one with Philippe's advertisement, this is a bargain.

Club brings ray of sunshine

The Sunray Dance & Social Club is based in The Sunray Community Centre, Tolworth, next to Knollmead Primary School on The Sunray Estate.

Regular dance socials are held, one strictly for line dancing and the other mixed dancing for everyone to enjoy.

Entertainment is offered by live professional bands, including some of the best tribute artists in the business.

Activities at the centre include line dancing, jive, rock 'n' roll, an art group, ladies' club, bridge club, bingo and dance classes.

The dance instructors are Janice Golding (Hotshots LD), Peter Day (Sundowners LDC) and Val and Faye of Dance Connections.

"Obviously all forms of dance are good for you," says Peter Day. "However line

dancing is one of the most popular dance forms worldwide as no partner is needed.

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For more information call Peter on 07885 543886.



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What's on

WINTER SEASON

Fun throughout the and into 2009

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Make new social connections this Christmas



For those who feel their social life is as exciting as watching paint dry, a Surrey-based members club for the 'unattached over 35s' is offering to help you paint the town red.

To help members make the most of the festive season, and beyond, Select2Connect has organised various activities from black tie dinner dances, discos, barn dances, pub games, skittles matches, bowling, meals out, rambles or simply for members to meet for a drink in the local pub with friendly, like-minded people.

Some of its members were

egged on by their children to join. Their children encouraged them to take the first steps by visiting a midweek club or quiz night.

Job relocation, bereavement, divorce or the loss of existing friendships are all reasons why people can find their social circle reducing over the years.

To establish a new one, outside the work environment can take a while, especially if you prefer face-to-face communication rather than trying to find new friends via the internet. In these difficult economic times, the cost of socialising also needs to be

considered which is why the club offers a range of events to suit all wallets and purses within a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

So if you want to take the first steps towards getting a 'social life on a plate', come along to the next disco on Saturday, December 13.

Alternatively you can go along to a Thursday disco/club night. It could change your life forever!

Call Rosemary on 07860 101876 or Sandra 01932 883561.

Details of forthcoming events can also be found by browsing the website selectsingles.org

Meet someone new through speed dating

For every person living alone in 1952 there are seven today – that's according to You Magazine.

Speed dating is one way for people with busy lifestyles, who find it difficult to juggle their work and private life, to meet a wide range of other single people.

People are sometimes apprehensive to try speed dating. However, the formula is simple and a bit like musical chairs.

At a typical speed dating event, each participant meets around 20 members of the opposite sex, and either the men or women rotate around every four minutes.

On a record card, candidates write who they'd like to meet again which is returned to the organisers at the end of the

evening. An email is sent the next day to let people know whether they have any matches.

"Speed dating is based on the numbers game," said Johanna Bowman from Swiftdater.

"The more people you meet the more likely it is you will find your soulmate."

Swiftdater, Richmond's longest-running speed dating company (which has been established five years), has indeed many success stories including 28 couples who have gone on to marry.

If you'd like to know more about Swiftdater's speed dating events please contact Johanna on 020 8755 4901 or visit swiftdater.co.uk. Its next event is being held on December 7, at The Petersham Hotel in Richmond.



Free tickets to watch television programmes being recorded

SRO Audiences is The TV Audience Company. It supplies tickets for many of the UK's favourite shows as well as many new shows.

It is currently booking tickets for The Graham Norton Show, The Alan Titchmarsh Show, All Star Mr & Mrs, Daily Cooks Challenge, Jasper Carrott's Golden Balls, Wogan's Perfect Recall and two new sitcoms at Teddington Studios, Perrin' with Martin Clunes, and Playing Shop with Peep Show's David Mitchell & Robert Webb. Several of the shows are cur-

rently taping Christmas specials.

The company books tickets for shows which are recorded at Teddington Studios, The ITV London Studios, BBC TV Centre and many other studios and venues across London.

Tickets to all of its shows are free.

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What's on WINTER SEASON and into 2009

Fun throughout the

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Take Five Fairs at the Woking Leisure Centre

John Slade's Take Five Fairs' monthly Big Indoor Flea Market and Collectables Fair is back in Woking.

The 200-stall flea market offers a vast range of antiques as well as vintage and second-hand goods, bric-a-brac, new hand-crafted items, plus jewellery, books, postcards and gift items. It's a place where there are plenty of bargains. Admission is £2 and the cost of a stall at the market is just £25.

The next Art Nouveau/Art Deco Fair, with 200 stalls of quality items, will be staged

in Woking just after Christmas on Sunday, December 28, then again on March 1, 2009.

John's Art Nouveau and Art Deco fairs include everything from arts and crafts to those from the post-war period and the 1970s. The variety of goods on display includes furniture, lighting, mirrors, clocks, paintings and prints, rugs and a range of decorative items made from ceramics, glass, metal and wood.

Look out for plaques, masks, signed bronze sculptures, silver and plate, copper, brass and

chrome, Bakelite, plastics, early telephones, fine and costume jewellery, vintage clothing, shoes, bags, fans, accessories and vanity products. The fair opens to the public at 9am and closes at 4pm. Admission is £3.50.

Fairs are held at The Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road (A247), Woking, Surrey GU22 9BA. There is ample parking, a light airy hall and a licensed bar/restaurant. For more information telephone John Slade on 020 8894 0218 or visit antiquefairs.co.uk



Sailing gifts for Christmas

Ocean Adventures is a sailing club which offers a warm welcome to anyone wanting to sail, from complete beginners to experienced yachts people.

It organises day and weekend sailing trips aboard a skippered luxury yacht in the Solent.

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Those who want to be less hands-on are welcome to sit back and simply enjoy the view.

You can choose to book either a single berth, two berth or the whole boat for a day's sailing, weekend trip or even longer.

The club also offers gift vouchers for those who want to give something which is a little more original. These start from £75 for a day sail and may be redeemed against any of the club's sailing trips. There is no time limit, so they offer great flexibility.

Please visit oceanadventuresailing.com or call 02380 320839 for more information.



Yoga for lunch

Jane Ellison trained and worked as a dancer, studying both ballet and contemporary dance before training to become a yoga teacher.

She now takes several local classes, including lunchtime yoga at Weybridge library and yoga for the retired in the Her-sham WI Hall.

There is no joining fee - attendees pay as they come and prices have been kept affordable.

Jane said: "Yoga is great for sport as it improves strength

and flexibility and brings the body into balance. I have runners, golfers, martial artists and tennis players attending.

"Yoga can help back pain, keeping the back flexible and it improves posture.

"Beginners are very welcome in my classes and in this busy and stressful world come and experience peace and tranquillity as we nurture the body and soul in a friendly environment."

Call 01932 230382 for more information.

Over 30s' party nights

Rita and Dee's over 30s disco party nights at Botley Hill Farmhouse, Limpsfield Road, Warlingham, have fast become the place to be on Saturday nights - and the occasional Friday.

The party nights offer great music, top DJs and atmosphere to match. Join in the festive spirit on Christmas party nights which are being held on December 6, 13 and 20 for just £6.

Tickets are now going on sale for their New Year's Eve party.

These are just £15 so the advice is to book early to avoid disappointment.

"This is our tenth anniversary year so come and enjoy and dress to impress," said Dee.

As well as Botley, Rita and Dee are opening a new over 30s club on Friday, January 30, at the Aerodrome Hotel, Purley Way, Croydon. This will be held once a month.

For more information and to book tickets for New Year's Eve, telephone Rita on 020 8641 6077 or Dee on 020 8644 9892.

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| Wednesday 24th December 3.30pm | Carol Singing, free mulled wine and mince pies War Memorial Park (by Library) |
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| Sunday 28th December 11.00am 6.30pm | All-Age Service Testimony Service |

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Catch Roy Dodds, Steve Lawson and Patrick Wood at the Monk Club – see page 29

A host of Christmas class

Speaking to actor John Ramm on the telephone, it is easy to understand the quandary he is in.

Softly spoken, exceedingly polite and eloquent, Ramm takes on the iconic role of Scrooge in the Rose Theatre's production of A Christmas Carol that opens this week.

And for the veteran performer, stepping into the shoes of the cantankerous character has posed a new set of problems.

He explains: "I think the most pressing thing is to keep him mean."

"He has to be very unpleasant pretty much right to the end of the play."

"I tend to play quite likeable characters, so it has been quite hard in rehearsal to be mean for such a long time."

"But it is a tremendous role and it is very unusual to have a character so old playing the hero in a production."

A Christmas Carol is the Rose's first festive venture, running until early January.

But despite the season, and the subject matter, Ramm is eager to stress this is no run-of-the-mill panto-esque production.

He adds: "It really is a play for Christmas but it is certainly not pantomime."

"It is not full of stars and rude jokes like a lot of other productions at this time of year."

"But there will certainly be a Christmas feel – the sets are beautiful."

"We are very faithful to the original Dickens story, but what we are doing is putting in

THEATRE: A Christmas Carol, Rose Theatre

Simon Fitzjohn

"It has been quite hard in rehearsal to be mean for such a long time... and it is very unusual to have a character so old playing the hero"

John Ramm

a lot of music and carols."

Ramm will be joined in director Stephen Unwin's opus by a cast of both professional actors and local children.

And, nearing the end of an exhaustive rehearsal process, Ramm is quick to praise Unwin's approach.

Ramm reveals: "Stephen is very direct. He is excellent at making a spectacle happen."

"There are many costume changes and the like in the



Things are looking up: Pip Donaghy (Fezziwig, Ghost of Christmas Present) and right, John Ramm (Scrooge) during rehearsals

show but he retains strong control.

"We have a red team and a blue team of child actors switching performances and they are all excellent."

But back to the carols and

song. What can audiences expect from Ramm and how would he rate his vocal range?

"I don't actually have much singing to do – I think they get to hear enough of me speaking", he says.

"So, thankfully, I have been

spared on the singing side – or perhaps that should be the audience has been spared!"

A Christmas Carol, Rose Theatre, December 2 to January 3, 7.30pm, £7 to £29.50, call 0871 230 1552 for more information.

The week ahead

Take a Loki

An evening of Medieval music will be presented with a Christmas slant as The Bardos Band give a concert in the wonderful surroundings of Lovekyn Chapel. Sopranos, fiddle and harp will be among the instruments used as the band, who formed in 2005, specialise in exploring the link between music and storytelling. Kingston Grammar School, Thursday, December 4, 7.15pm, £6/£8 on door.

A source of inspiration

Find original artwork at the best possible prices as the Artists' Studio hosts one of its popular Open Weekends. More than 40 artists will showcase the best in painting, sculpting, photography and much more. FusionARTS, Eden Street, Kingston, December 5-7, noon daily, free.

Mule Rule

British eccentrics The Mules will be the headline act as All Saints Church hosts one of its fundraising nights in aid of the All Saints Appeal. The Mules, described as "a bit punk, a bit country and a bit like all things", will be ably supported by local bands Pengillys, Alphaduka and Paperplanes. December 6, 9pm, £5/£6, 020 8546 5964.

The Mack's back

Popular local funnyman Donald Mack once again hosts another of the ever-successful Laughing Horse's comedy nights. On the bill tonight are Simon Fielder, Ava Alexis, Miriam Elia, Martin Hill, Gary McNulty and Darren Phillips. Cricketers, Kingston, December 6, 8.30pm, £4.50/£6, 07913 460295

Tis the season

Enjoy an evening of mulled wine, mince pies, and classic carols as Warren House hosts its Christmas Carols Concert along with the Holy Cross School Choir. The evening will form part of a charity event in aid of the Children's Trust. Kingston, December 8, 6.30pm, donations welcome, 020 8974 7116.

For more events turn to page 31

For more theatre, music and comedy visit yourlocalguardian.co.uk

Films What's on this week

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG): This colourful computer-animated sequel cheekily recycles the plot of The Lion King. Eric Damell and Tom McGrath's film strands its menagerie of misfits in the wild, where they discover the courage to follow their hearts and reclaim a birthright as king of the jungle. As in the first film, Sacha Baron Cohen merrily scene-steals as a crazy lemur. Kids will squeal at the slapstick and bright colours but parents and older audiences will have to search much harder for amusement. ★★★

TRANSPORTER 3 (15): Jason Stratham returns as Frank Martin in Olivier Megaton's brawny yet brainless sequel. Expect car chases and punch-ups galore in this high-octane action movie, where some scenes verge on the ridiculous. Transporter 3 appropriates an eco-friendly central theme as a hook but the filmmakers are more interested in orchestrating mayhem than saving the planet. Frank is sent on a job to pick up Valentina (Natalya Rudakova), the kidnapped daughter of Leonid Vasilev (Jeroen Krabbe), head of the Ukraine's powerful Environmental Protection Agency. However, plans go awry when sparks of passion fly between Frank and Valentina. ★★

LAKEVIEW TERRACE (15): Neil LaBute's provocative, modern-day drama looks at racial tensions in a desirable Californian cul-de-sac. Samuel L. Jackson stars as a cop-gone-bad Abe Turner who despises almost everybody, including himself. He wallops his teenage daughter in public for disobeying his dictates and thinks nothing of using his gun to cleanse the community of undesirable elements. When a newlywed couple

move in next door, Abe does his best to scare them away. The couple retaliate, making a bad situation even worse. From here on in, Lakeview Terrace slips into a predictable game of cat and mouse. ★★★

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES (12A): Adapted from Sue Monk Kid's acclaimed novel, The Secret Life of Bees is an affecting and well-crafted rite of passage story set in the racially divided South Carolina of the 60s. Plucky teenager Lily Owens (Dakota Fanning) is one of the few people in town to take people as they come, happily treating her nursemaid Rosaleen (Jennifer Hudson) as her equal. When the servant endures a beating at the hands of local bigots and is consigned to a hospital bed, Lily vows to spirit her friend away to a safer place. In doing so, she faces up to the death of her own mother. As chick flicks trumpeting female empowerment go, this is a highly enjoyable and heartfelt diversion. ★★★★★

FOUR CHRISTMASES (12A): Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn fail to impress in this lifeless romantic comedy. Happily unmarried San Francisco couple Brad (Vaughn) and Kate (Witherspoon) have been together for years but have no plans to walk down the aisle. Every December 25, the lovebirds make outlandish, charity work-related excuses to their loved ones so they can jet off to sunnier climes. But, when the fog sets in and they are unable to fly, the bickering duo are forced to spend the holiday season with their families. A tinsel-strewn retreat of Meet The Parents that doesn't quite make the cut. ★★



Rock fans be warned – StageFrite is coming! The popular band night is bringing a new, regular show to West Molesey after a barrage of successful gigs at Wallington Halls and the organisers are hoping local bands will come forward to make StageFrite their own.

'Big' Dave Clarke, one of the founders of StageFrite, says: "We are taking some regular StageFrite bands with us for this first gig and are hoping more bands from Molesey, Kingston, and Elmbridge will get involved."

StageFrite is on December 12 and features seven bands including Security Within Shadows, Crisis Journey, and First Strike – all hard-rocking groups who have proved popular with the Wallington Halls crowd in the past. A ticket to the all-ages show costs £7 and there will be the usual giveaways.

For one of the bands on the bill, Inhumane, the move to Mole Hall gives a chance for the band to play on their home turf. The band's members all hail from Kingston's environs, with singer Jack Angel from

GIGS: StageFrite, Mole Hall by Will Gore

Molesey, and the band are regulars on the Kingston circuit.

Angel, who describes Inhumane's sound as "heavy, epic and melodic", says his home crowd "get more into it" but says the StageFrite crew are louder.

He then adds rather diplomatically: "It doesn't mean that one is better than the other". No matter the merits of either crowd, it will almost certainly make for an exciting night when they come together.

The band are especially looking forward to the gig as they will soon be taking some time out for some less than rock'n'roll reasons.

Angel says:

"We are looking forward to every gig as we are going to be taking a break for our GCSEs. Our guitarist wants to study. I told him, 'We are a metal band!' But it is his choice."

StageFrite, Mole Hall, West Molesey, December 12, all ages, 7pm, £7, my space. com/stagefrite

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Netting future talent

Internet sensation Kate Walsh will be the special guest when Kingston hosts a concert aimed at promoting the best unsigned acts around.

Christmas Unsigned 3 will emanate from the candlelit surroundings of St John's Church and will also feature Surbiton singer-songwriter Andrew Morris and popular local band fish! on the bill.

But it will be trailblazing Essex girl Walsh who will garner the headlines, thanks to an online surge in momentum that brought her to national prominence back in 2007. A graduate of Brighton Institute of Modern Music, Walsh first dipped her toe into the waters of musical stardom with a 2003 release, Clocktower Park.

But, fading into the background and honing her craft, the Burnham-on-Crouch-born singer

CONCERTS: Christmas Unsigned, St John's Church Simon Fitzjohn

returned in 2007 with self-financed, self-released long-player Tim's House.

Then, in a quirk of fate, iTunes denoted track Talk of the Town their free single of the week in March of that year.

This led to a stampede of interest and Walsh found her album number one in the UK iTunes store, outselling both Take That and Kaiser Chiefs.

She has continued to build on her popularity but admits any-

one expecting a lighthearted romp is likely to be disappointed.

Walsh explains: "When I write songs it is because I am feeling a certain way."

"I don't get up in the morning and say, 'I'm a songwriter, so I have to write a song today'."

"I write because I have to get things off my chest and get feelings and emotions out. It is my therapy."

No doubt looking for tips on cracking the market will be Morris and fish!

Although Morris has plenty to shout about himself, having appeared at Glastonbury as well as supporting Marillion this year.

So pop along, support some local talent, and get a glimpse of the future.

Christmas Unsigned, St John's Church, ROADROAD, December 6, 7.30pm, £6/£10, call 07802 381130.

For more music visit yourlocalguardian.co.uk



**Steve
LAWSON**



**Roy
DODDS**



**Patrick
WOOD**

Hey, hey, it's the Monk Club

One of Richmond's best-kept cultural secrets, the Monk Club, will be celebrating Christmas in style with a musical line-up that reflects the club's experimental ethos.

On December 11, the club will welcome headliners Dodds, Lawson, Wood and support acts the Side FX and Emily Wood for the concert in the basement of the Vineyard Church.

The club has been a word-of-mouth success over its four-year existence and is proud to remain an underground phenomenon.

Founder Simon Klein, whose band the Simon Klein Band will also be playing, explains: "It is absolutely about the music. We are different from the pub circuit as we have interesting people playing furniture and toys and young rock bands influenced by things they are surrounded by and making them their own."

Klein is delighted Dodds, Lawson, Wood are playing the Christmas gig. The band has recently launched a new album, Numbers.

He says: "Roy Dodds is currently on tour with

MUSIC: Monk Club, Vineyard Church

Will Gore

Fairground Attraction – he is a brilliant experimental drummer. On bass, Steve Lawson has a bank of state-of-the-art technology. Their sound is melodious and it is all improvised."

For the band's keyboard player and guitarist Patrick Wood the gig will be something of a family affair as his daughter, Emily, will also play a set of her piano and acoustic-led songs.

She has toured as a backing singer with indie's Laura Marling and is now striking out on her own.

Dad Simon is an artist by day but is relishing the chance to engage in a whole new form of artistic expression with his band.

He says: "I'm not a musician so I write strange chord structures and the lyrics are important. It was a mid-life crisis that has turned into something quite important."

"As an artist, you are alone in the studio but with music you reach a much bigger audience. "I am interested in writing a song which survives."

If the idea of experimental musical puts you off, Klein says there is another good reason to head to the Monk Club – the

food! He adds: "There is no alcohol but we have interesting punches, tea and home-made food. We have a great chef and should have some mince pies – people should come to try out the food."

Monk Club Christmas Special, December 11, 8pm-11pm, The Vineyard Church basement, Richmond, £6 £4 (children). themonkclub.co.uk

READ MARK FOKER'S VERDICT ON CHANGELING

[yourlocalguardian.co.uk/
yoursay/blogs/markfoker](http://yourlocalguardian.co.uk/yoursay/blogs/markfoker)



horoscopes with Claire Petulengro

Aries March 21 - April 20

You don't seem to know who you can trust as recent events have revealed certain faces as someone other than you had thought. Don't worry though as Neptune is on hand to help you work out all you need to know to tell fact from fiction, especially on Thursday so make sure you trust your instincts. Call now for intriguing news on love.

Call: 0906 585 4732

Taurus April 21 - May 21

You have been worrying about things which were not in your control but Venus takes charge and enables you to think with a clear mind. This should make up for the very messy few days you have had recently. It should also help take an important relationship up to the next level. Call now to hear who it's worth making peace with.

Call: 0906 585 4733

Gemini May 22 - June 21

I know you have some regrets but I also know this is the week that you can find happiness. Stop blaming yourself for things which were out of your control and make that phone call which can give you the answer you seek. Wednesday also holds the power to solve a financial worry once and for all. Call now for clarity and vision.

Call: 0906 585 4734

Cancer June 22 - July 22

It seems that promises were made to be broken by certain close ones in your life. It's time to up the stakes. Cancer, if you don't show some sense of pride then loved ones are going to take you for granted. Honest talking on Saturday and Sunday can help move mountains, so make the effort. Call me now to hear whose talking marriage!

Call: 0906 585 4735

Leo July 23 - Aug 24

A slow pace is essential this week, no matter how much close ones try to encourage you to rush. Manners will also go a long way to you getting what you want, especially concerning financial affairs. The number four links to you finally getting what you want in love. Call me now to hear why Jupiter is your new best friend.

Call: 0906 585 4736

Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22

Stop worrying about the things you can't change and start to work instead on things that are in your control. Places you visit this week offer important clues as to what and who you need. Your instincts are leading you well so follow them. Call my starline now to hear how unexpected faces are about to do you a very large favour.

Call: 0906 585 4737

Libra Sept 23 - Oct 23

I'd be surprised if you manage to complete any one thing this week. Your nervous energy is making it hard for close ones to understand what you want. Take some time out so you can look at the bigger picture. Libra, a dream you have is closer to achieving than you think. Call my starline now to hear which sign is feeding you lies.

Call: 0906 585 4738

Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 21

You are flirting for the sake of it and married or attached Scorpios are going to find it hard not to get themselves into trouble. Keep a professional head on during the week though, especially on Tuesday when you get the chance to be up delicate financial issues to your advantage. Call me now to hear why love will soon require a risk.

Call: 0906 585 4739

Sagittarius Nov 22 - Dec 20

You don't know what you want but you do know you need some changes. The home is highlighted and this would be a good time to sit down and do some honest sums so that you may work out what you can and cannot afford to do. Jupiter offers clarity in a family issue which may surprise you. Call me now for more on these upcoming dramas.

Call: 0906 585 4740

Capricorn Dec 21 - Jan 20

You are a clever sign Capricorn and you all too often underestimate yourself. You get the chance to find out what has really been going on around you this month and you finally realise that you are actually the one in the driving seat. Friday will reveal what you intend to do with this new found power. Call now for a surprise in love.

Call: 0906 585 4741

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Time is of the essence and you must be careful that you don't end up taking shortcuts which will damage the good work you have so far done. Take some time out for yourself so that you can work out what and who you really want. Decision time is closer than you think my friend. Call now for clarity and vision on your future.

Call: 0906 585 4742

Pisces Feb 20 - March 20

Younger faces seem to be having a more dramatic effect on your life than usual. Don't be too quick to make changes which may affect your long term future. Think carefully about major commitments, especially with the personal changes midmonth will bring for you. Call my starline now to hear why it's worth putting yourself first this week.

Call: 0906 585 4743

Live Psychic - Call now 0906 570 5970

Astrology calls cost 60ppm. Psychic calls cost £1.50 per minute - BT landlines (other networks may vary) Lines are open from 7am-2am daily. Callers must be 18 or over and all calls are recorded. For entertainment purposes only. Customer services 0800 140 9049. PhonePayPlus Regulated. SP, Pronto Media, PO BOX 199, Selby, YO8 1BP.

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Cars £10, Vans £20,
Buyers 20p, £2 before 9am.
No traders, refreshment sellers, dogs

Car Boot Sales

GRAND CAR BOOT SALE
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Every Saturday - Cars £10 Vans £20
Admission £1 after 8.30am or £2 before
No New Goods Allowed All on hard standing
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Every Sunday 8.30am-2.30pm
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Skye's the limit

Jim Woodman recently featured in the Paintings, Prints and Porcelain exhibition at Fountain Gallery. His work will again be on display at the gallery's Christmas show, which opens on December 9. **Will Gore** talks to the Teddington-based artist.

EXHIBITIONS: Jim Woodman, Fountain Gallery

volunteer at the Royal Academy in Piccadilly, which I still do, taking tours of the fine rooms.

Where do you exhibit locally?

This month I am exhibiting at Fountain Gallery in East Molesey with some other Scottish-influenced artists. I have also exhibited at the Landmark Centre Midsummer Art Fair for several years running and have always done well there. It is always well attended and popular. I have also been happy to donate some of my work to the recent art auction at York House.

What inspires you?

I am excited by the play of light on a landscape and how the same scene can be transformed by the time of day, the weather, and the seasons. I am transfixed by colour. I love the work of Cezanne, Turner, Matisse, the 20th century artist John Piper and, among modern artists, Donald

Hamilton-Fraser and Barbara Rae, both Scottish artists and Royal Academicians.

Do you have any suggestions for people wanting to get started?

My way of getting into art was pretty shambolic. I would suggest joining local art societies to exhibit with like-minded people. And I would say practice is all. Do a lot of drawing but don't draw what you think you see - look properly.

Future plans?

Just to keep going. I simply love what I do and couldn't be happier. The combination of my solitary painting sessions in Scotland and in and around Richmond, and meeting all kinds of new and interesting people through my work and at exhibitions, suits me perfectly.

Your biggest thrill?

Selling my first painting at the second exhibition at which I had appeared, in 1998, for £15.

Jim Woodman, exhibiting in Fountain Gallery's Christmas show December 9 to 24, East Molesey. Visit fountaingallery.co.uk

Planning a getaway or a weekend break?



fish4holidays.co.uk

A fitting Mirth place

Owen O'Neill and Stan Stanley will be the comedic brothers-in-arms as Mirth Control is once again prescribed for Kingston punters in need of a laughter transfusion.

The Kingsmeadow will be transformed into gag heaven with the two comics refereed by expert MC Andrew O'Neill.

Owen is a multi-talented performer, who has carved a well-deserved reputation as one of Ireland's finest comedy exports.

Launching himself onto the scene in 1985 on Irish TV show Saturday Live, O'Neill has gone on to be a favourite in Britain and abroad, appearing twice on the Conan O'Brien Show in the US.

But he is not merely a stand-up to savour, as he is

COMEDY: Mirth Control, Kingsmeadow

also a writer and director of the highest order.

O'Neill has had plays and shows adapted for TV and radio and is a favourite for his regular jaunts at the Edinburgh Festival. And he is no stranger to controversy, with priests, poets and

the IRA all falling foul of his scattergun approach.

Joining him will be Stanley, who was runner-up in the 2002 Daily Telegraph Open Mike Awards.

Stanley is an accomplished writer as well, having penned numerous sketches for the BBC.

But he offers a balance to O'Neill's acid wit, his genial approach proving a hit. **Mirth Control, Kingsmeadow, Kingston, December 5, 8pm, £12 incl dinner, call 020 8547 3335.**



Stan Stanley

thursday, december 4

EVENTS

Loki Music. Medieval music for Christmas performed by The Bardos Band with soprano, fiddle and harp. 7.15pm. Lovekyn Chapel, Kingston Grammar School, London Road, Kingston. £8 door (£6 conc), U16 free.

THEATRE

A Christmas Carol. Until Jan 3. Charles Dickens's play adapted for the stage by Karen Louise Hebden and directed by Stephen Unwin. 7.30pm. Rose Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston. £7-£29.50. 0871 230 1552. rosetheatrekington.org

friday, december 5

COMEDY

Crack Comedy Club. Doors 7pm. Kingston's longest running comedy night presents Kerry Goddman, Michael Fabbri and Milton Jones. Resident MC Erich McElroy. 8pm. The Grey Horse, 46 Richmond Road, Kingston. £10 (£8 members, £6 students/concessions). 020 8549 9790. crackcomedy.com

EVENTS

German Christmas Market. Until Dec 29. The Ancient Market Place will be transformed into a Christmas village, with traditional wooden stalls selling lovely handmade gifts. Every Thursday and Sunday there will be live entertainment. 10am-8pm. Market Place, Market Place, Kingston. 020 8547 5757.

Christmas Tea Dance. Led by award-winning dancer Jeff Clark, a Christmas tea dance. Waltz, quickstep, samba, rumba, tango, cha cha cha and more. Own partner not essential with this friendly group. 2.30pm. Richard Mayo Hall, Kingston United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston. £5. 08549 0999; 8549 1373. lizronhatch@tiscali.co.uk

GIGS

Mirth Control. Doors open 8pm. Owen O'Neill, Stan Stanley and Andrew O'Neill MC. 8pm. Kingsmeadow Stadium, Jack Goodchild Way, 422a Kingston Road, Kingston. £12 (includes comedy and dinner). 020 8547 3335. kingsmeadowlive.com

THEATRE

The Night Before Christmas. Until Dec 24. A unique Christmas theatre experience - meet Father Christmas and his naughty Elf! This cheery and informal show is a magical storytelling adventure for children and their families which is rounded off with a sing-a-long and the chance for every child to meet Father Christmas, receive a gift and share their wishes with him. 9.45am. Rose Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston. £9, £6 children. 0871 230 1552. rosetheatrekington.org

Pinocchio. Presented by St Paul's Players (also Saturday matinee at 2.30pm). 8pm. Hook & Southborough Parish Hall, Hook Road, Chessington. £7 (senior citizens £6, children £5). 020 8391 2077. kingston.gov.uk/pinocchio

saturday, december 6

COMEDY

The Laughing Horse. Doors 8pm. Simon Fielder, Ava Alexis, Miriam Elia, Martin Hill, Gary McNulty and Darren Phillips. With Kevin McCarron and resident host Donald Mack. 8.30pm. The Cricketers, 20 Fairfield South, Kingston. £6 (£4.50). 07913 460295. laughinghorsecomedy.co.uk

EVENTS

Carol Concert. Family carol concert in the Orangery. 4.30pm. Ham House, Ham Street, Ham. £15, children £9 booking

essential. 0844 249 1895. nationaltrust.org.uk

Cirque Normandie. Winter circus. Times and days vary. Check for details. 7.30pm. Chessington Garden Centre, Leatherhead Road. £7. 01372 725638. chessingtongardencentre.co.uk

Sparkle Academy Showcase. Variety show. 7.30pm. Arthur Cotterell Theatre, Kingston College, Kingston Hall Road, Kingston. £6. 020 8547 5409. kingston.gov.uk/tickets

Christmas Fair & Market. Stalls include homemade cakes and preserves, plants, bottle stall, books, toys, sweets, tombola, raffle, toy tombola, children's stalls, games and activities. 11am. St Richard's Church, Ashburnham Road, Ham. 50p. 020 8940 9476. strichardsham.org.uk

Craft Fair. Dec 6/7. A family Christmas at Ham House (the craft fair open until 5pm). 11am. Ham House, Ham Street, Ham. £3 (£2 children) (members free). 020 8940 1950. nationaltrust.org.uk

Balloon Modeller/Entertainer. The balloon modeller/entertainer will be wandering the store entertaining old and young alike. 10.30am. John Lewis, Wood Street, Kingston. 020 8547 3000.

Local School Choirs. The Notre Dame School Choir sing carols. 11am. John Lewis, Wood Street, Kingston. 020 8547 3000.

Eden Craft & Gift Fair. Until Dec 24. At All Saints Parish, Church Green. 9.30am-5.30pm. All Saints Church, Wood Street, Kingston. 020 8788 4434.

Just a Moment: Photographs by Stuart Heydinger. Until Jan 10. Photojournalism from the internationally renowned photographer, who was born in Kingston in 1927. Rarely seen collection of his work, on loan from the Oldenburg Museum of Art and Cultural History, Germany. 10am. Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way. £1, U16 free. 020 8547 6460. kingston.museum.gov.uk

Father Christmas. Santa will be wandering around the store to meet the children and tell stories from his fire-side. 10.30am. John Lewis, Wood Street, Kingston. 020 8547 3000.

GIGS

The Mules Go To Church. The Mules, supported by local bands Pengillys, Alphaduka and Paperplanes. In aid of the All Saints Appeal. 7pm. All Saints Church, Market Place, Kingston. £6 (adv £5). 020 8546 5964. allsaintsappeal@tiscali.co.uk

Christmas Unsigned

3. A unique concert in a beautiful candlelit church showcasing some of the UK's best new music. Headlining is Surbiton singer-songwriter Andrew Morris, complete with his excellent backing band. 7.30pm. St John's Church, Springfield Road, Kingston. £10 (£6). 07802 381130. tony@hardy53.fsnet.co.uk

Kingsmeadow Live. Featuring DJ sets from house DJs. 8pm. Kingsmeadow Stadium, Jack Goodchild Way, 422a Kingston Road, Kingston. £8 adv (£10). 020 8547 3335. kingsmeadowlive.com

Borough Brass Band.

Big band with great music. 11am. Eden Walk Shopping Centre, Kingston. info@edenwalkshopping.co.uk

sunday, december 7

EVENTS

Winter Exposed. Photographic exhibition capturing the beauty of the UK landscape in winter. Includes work of internationally renowned photographers Charlie Waite, Joe Cornish, Heather Angel, Andrea Jones and Jean-Luc Chapin. Open on the days of a listed concert or event. This is free for those who have purchased a ticket for any listed concert or event. Landmark Arts Centre, Ferry Road, Teddington. Free. 020 8977 7558. lesley@landmarkartscentre.org

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The Three Elvis Elves. Don't miss your chance to catch the three jolly elves paying tribute to the King of Rock and Roll. If this isn't enough, magic tricks will also be performed by the elves throughout the day. 1pm. The Rotunda, Clarence Street, Kingston. 0208 546 2180. kingstonfirst.co.uk

Historical Walk. Guided walk by Kingstons (voluntary) tour guides. 2.30pm. Meet Church Gates, Ancient Market Place,

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family celebrations

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Births

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Obituary Notice

SHEILA JOAN BILLINGHAM

Peacefully at home on 25th November 2008 aged 2008.

Enquiries to Andrew Holmes and Son 020 8390 6690

In Memoriam

ALAN McLOUGHLIN

Sadly passed away on 25th November 2008 aged 44 years.

The funeral will take place on Friday 5th December 2008, 10.20am at Kingston Crematorium.

Enquiries to Frederick W Paine, Molesey 020 8979 5343

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A Christmas Carol. Until Jan 3. Charles Dickens's play adapted for the stage by Karen Louise Hebden and directed by Stephen Unwin. 7.30pm. Rose Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston. £7-£29.50. 0871 230 1552. rosetheatrekington.org

friday, december 5

COMEDY

Crack Comedy Club. Doors 7pm. Kingston's longest running comedy night presents Kerry Goddman, Michael Fabbri and Milton Jones. Resident MC Erich McElroy. 8pm. The Grey Horse, 46 Richmond Road, Kingston. £10 (£8 members, £6 students/concessions). 020 8549 9790. crackcomedy.com

EVENTS

German Christmas Market. Until Dec 29. The Ancient Market Place will be transformed into a Christmas village, with traditional wooden stalls selling lovely handmade gifts. Every Thursday and Sunday there will be live entertainment. 10am-8pm. Market Place, Market Place, Kingston. 020 8547 5757.

Christmas Tea Dance. Led by award-winning dancer Jeff Clark, a Christmas tea dance. Waltz, quickstep, samba, rumba, tango, cha cha cha and more. Own partner not essential with this friendly group. 2.30pm. Richard Mayo Hall, Kingston United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston. £5. 08549 0999; 8549 1373. lizronhatch@tiscali.co.uk

GIGS

Mirth Control. Doors open 8pm. Owen O'Neill, Stan Stanley and Andrew O'Neill MC. 8pm. Kingsmeadow Stadium, Jack Goodchild Way, 422a Kingston Road, Kingston. £12 (includes comedy and dinner). 020 8547 3335. kingsmeadowlive.com

THEATRE

The Night Before Christmas. Until Dec 24. A unique Christmas theatre experience - meet Father Christmas and his naughty Elf! This cheery and informal show is a magical storytelling adventure for children and their families which is rounded off with a sing-a-long and the chance for every child to meet Father Christmas, receive a gift and share their wishes with him. 9.45am. Rose Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston. £9, £6 children. 0871 230 1552. rosetheatrekington.org

Pinocchio. Presented by St Paul's Players (also Saturday matinee at 2.30pm). 8pm. Hook & Southborough Parish Hall, Hook Road, Chessington. £7 (senior citizens £6, children £5). 020 8391 2077. kingston.gov.uk/pinocchio

saturday, december 6

COMEDY

The Laughing Horse. Doors 8pm. Simon Fielder, Ava Alexis, Miriam Elia, Martin Hill, Gary McNulty and Darren Phillips. With Kevin McCarron and resident host Donald Mack. 8.30pm. The Cricketers, 20 Fairfield South, Kingston. £6 (£4.50). 07913 460295. laughinghorsecomedy.co.uk

EVENTS

Carol Concert. Family carol concert in the Orangery. 4.30pm. Ham House, Ham Street, Ham. £15, children £9 booking

Quick Crossword

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|--|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | 8 |
| 9 | | | | | 10 | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | 12 | | | | |
| 13 | 14 | | | 15 | 16 | | | | |
| 18 | | | 19 | | 20 | 21 | | | |
| 22 | | | | | 23 | | | | |
| 24 | | | | | | | | | |

ACROSS

1. Waywardness (11)

9. Open-air (7)

10. Collide (5)

11. Nobleman (5)

12. Jersey (7)

13. Help (6)

15. Char (6)

18. Slander (7)

20. Fruit (5)

22. Unsullied (5)

23. Messenger (7)

24. Hatred (11)

DOWN

2. Change (5)

3. Reasons (7)

4. Flog (6)

5. Recess (5)

6. Strew (7)

7. Patience (11)

8. Understaffed (11)

14. Highest (7)

16. Console (7)

17. Leave (6)

19. Scope (5)

21. Game of chance (5)

Last Week's solution:

Across: 1 Submerge; 5 Scum; 9 Scan; 10 Stubborn; 11 Avoid; 12 Uniting; 13 Bring together; 18 Devilish; 19 Near; 20 Earning; 21 Limit; 22 Slew; 23 Staining.

Down: 2 Uncover; 3 Mention; 4 Get out of sight; 6 Coolish; 7 Manager; 8 Oblige; 13 Badness; 14 Inverse; 15 Gallic; 16 Tension; 17 Elation.

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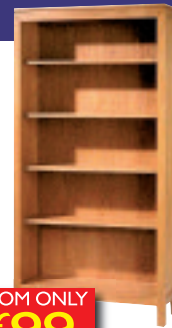


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Public Notices

Legal Notice

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 Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Allen House 1 Westmead Road Sutton Surrey SM1 4LA on 09/12/2008 at 10.45 am for the purposes provided for in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. At the meeting, creditors may be requested to consider a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated and the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. For the purposes of voting, Proof of Debt and Proxy Forms intended to be used at the meeting must be lodged at the registered office of the company, now situated at the offices of Turpin Barker Armstrong, Allen House 1 Westmead Road Sutton Surrey SM1 4LA, not later than 12 noon on the business day before the meeting. Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to section 98(2)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that Martin C Armstrong of Turpin Barker Armstrong, Allen House 1 Westmead Road Sutton Surrey SM1 4LA, is qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above company and will, during the period before the day of the meeting, furnish creditors with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
 Dated: 25/11/2008
 LEE MOONEY, Director T242960

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 Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 60/62 Old London Road Kingston upon Thames Surrey KT2 6QZ on 15/12/2008 at 11.15 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. The resolutions to be taken at the Meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated, and the Meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meeting. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account of the registered office - 60/62 Old London Road Kingston upon Thames Surrey KT2 6QZ not later than 12 noon on the business day before the Meeting. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at 60/62 Old London Road Kingston upon Thames Surrey KT2 6QZ before the Meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that Andrew John Whelan of Marks Bloom, 60/62 Old London Road Kingston upon Thames Surrey KT2 6QZ is a person qualified to act as an insolvency practitioner in relation to the company who will, during the period before the day of the meeting, furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
 Dated: 24/11/2008
 TRESS, Director T242858

PEARSON MATTHEWS LIMITED

(In Liquidation)
 In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, we, Richard Andrew Segal and James Taylor of Begbies Traynor, The Old Exchange 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea Essex SS1 2EG give notice that on 25/11/2008 we were appointed Joint Liquidators of Pearson Matthews Limited by resolutions of the members and creditors. Dated: 25/11/2008
RICHARD ANDREW SEGAL,
 Joint Liquidator T243060

NANCY CHRISTINA FARQUHARSON (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Court Royal Church Hill Road Surbiton Surrey, who died on 27/05/2008, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 13/02/2009, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

HUNTERS

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A W LAW

North Lodge Escher Park Avenue Escher Surrey KT10 9NP T242771

THOMAS LAURENCE YOUNG (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 14 Holroyd Road Claygate Escher Surrey, who died on 19/09/2008, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 13/02/2009, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

A W LAW

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BARNES CONTRACTORS LIMITED

Company No. 3406732
 Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at Rileys House 63-64 Charles Lane London NW8 7SB on 18/12/2008 at 12.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, at Rileys House 63-64 Charles Lane London NW8 7SB on the two business days falling next before the day on which the Meeting of Creditors will be held.
 Dated: 20/11/2008
PHILIP ALLESTON, Director T242830

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NEW ROAD CAR TEST : JEEP PATRIOT S-LIMITED special edition

S-Club heaven?

Jeep's Patriot comes in a classier guise if you opt for this S-Limited version.

Jonathan Crouch checks it out

These days, you can buy yourself a Jeep with none of the downsides. You know, high fuel consumption, low emissions and ponderous handling. Of course, such a Jeep won't be quite the same off road, but it can come close enough not to matter. Hence the appeal of the brand's new generation products, cars like the Patriot.

To make sure the Patriot can offer fashion as well as 4x4 focus, the importers have introduced the S-Limited special edition version that we're looking at here. It comes only with the more affordable 2.4-litre petrol engine, rather than the 2.0-litre CRD diesel that most customers choose. Still, that does mean that prices can be kept well under the £20,000 mark,

just under £2,000 more than the plushiest Patriot in the standard range, that with 'Limited' trim.

So what does the extra cash buy you? Well, the answer is a whole series of exterior and interior improvements, including chrome grille surrounds, body-coloured door handles and mirrors, rear parking sensors, plus a special S-Limited badge and a front and rear under-ride body-kit. Interior improvements include leather trimmed seats and leather and Alcantara door panels, plus a leather-covered centre armrest, gearstick and headrests. Outside, there's an S-Limited badge in a red and silver finish and a Startech chrome grille. That's all on top of the kind of equipment fitted to all



top Patriots, including electric windows, a CD/radio, side-curtain airbags, anti-lock brakes and ESP with Electronic Roll Mitigation.

Otherwise, it is of course the standard Jeep Patriot recipe. If you haven't come across the model before, let's get one thing clear from the start. Although the Patriot is better off road than it ever needs to be, it's still a step or two down from the vehicles at the top end of the Jeep's range.

Jeep's retro kick is easily discernible when walking round the Patriot. The high beltline, narrow side windows, flat body panels and

upright windscreen angle are all design cues reminiscent of the early Cherokee, while the boxily flared wheel arches look straight from a Wrangler. The seven-slatted grille and round lights have become a Jeep totem and some rugged looking alloys complete the look. The Patriot is a car that looks a whole lot bigger than it is. Despite its imposing frontal aspect, it doesn't actually occupy much more space on the road than a Vauxhall Astra.

Overall, as a tool for seducing customers who were previously thinking of Nissan X-TRAILS, Toyota RAV4s and Honda CR-Vs, it's been

clearly found by the UK Jeep dealer network that in some respects, the Patriot needs a little more polish. This S-Limited special edition variant provides it – and does so at a price that comparable compact 4x4 products will find it difficult to match.

Car fact file

CAR: Jeep Patriot S-Limited special edition

PRICES: £19,810 - on the road

INSURANCE GROUPS: 11E

CO2 EMISSIONS: 206g/km

PERFORMANCE: 0-60mph 10.7s / Max Speed 112mph

FUEL CONSUMPTION: (combined) 32.5mpg

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FEATURES: Twin front & side airbags / ABS

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Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Corsa range: urban 26.9 (10.5) - 49.6 (5.7), extra-urban 44.1 (6.4) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 35.8 (7.9) - 62.8 (4.5), CO₂ Emissions 119 - 190g/km.

Model shown has optional 17-inch alloy wheels available at extra cost. Up to 74.3mpg figure refers to extra-urban cycle on the Corsa 1.3CDTi (75PS). £35 refers to annual road tax cost on Corsa 1.3CDTi (75PS) models. No deposit 0% finance available on selected Corsa models. Finance by GMAC UK plc. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. Finance offer available at participating retailers only. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK supplied vehicles only. A guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Ecoflex offer is available on selected engines and applies to the trade in and agreement to scrap one vehicle only. To qualify for this offer, a customer must purchase one of the eligible models, trade in a vehicle and agree to scrap the vehicle. The trade in vehicle must have been registered in the name of the customer prior to 30.06.08. Vehicle must be able to be driven on the highway. The customer must supply a vehicle registration document (V5C) and a valid MOT certificate to the retailer for the trade in vehicle. Vauxhall will ensure the vehicle is scrapped under the end of life vehicle directive and a certificate of destruction will be held by the retailer. If the customer agrees to scrap the vehicle a total of £1000 (inc. VAT) will be paid towards the purchase of a new eligible model irrespective of the current market value of their vehicle. For more details on this offer and the eligible models go to www.offers.vauxhall.co.uk or visit your local retailer. Offers available to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. All offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 03.12.08 and 02.02.09, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. (Vaux60847)

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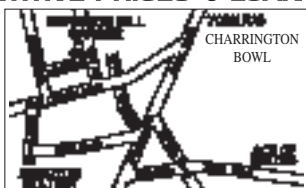
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PEUGEOT 307S estate, 1.6, 2003/53 (December) one lady owner, only 19, 000 miles, immaculate, silver bodywork, graphite black interior, air cond, electric windows, cd stereo, history £4295 01737 359 802 www.kingswoodmotorco.co.uk(T)

Useful Abbreviations

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| abs | Anti-lock Braking System |
| a/b or a/bags | Airbag(s) |
| a/c or a/con | Air Conditioning |
| auto | Automatic |
| a/w or alloys | Alloy Wheels |
| c/coded | Colour Coded |
| c/control | Climate Control |
| c/l or c/lock | Central Locking |
| cruise | Cruise Control |
| e/m | Electric Mirrors |
| e/w | Electric Windows |
| ex cond or ex con | Excellent Condition |
| fsh | Full Service History |
| 4wd | Four Wheel Drive |
| h/i/s or h/i/screen | Heated Front Screen |
| h/s | Heated Seats |
| immob | Immobiliser |
| lhd | Left Hand Drive |
| MoT | Ministry of Transport (Cert) |
| ono | Or Nearest Offer |
| ovno | Or Very Nearest Offer |
| pas | Power Assisted Steering |
| p/x | Part Exchange |
| r/c/l | Remote Central Locking |
| r/w/w | Rear Wash Wipe |
| sat nav | Satellite Navigation |
| s/r or s/roof | Sunroof |
| 3-dr | Three Doors |
| vgc | Very Good Condition |

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Credit crunch may hit Tom

New Malden racing driver Tom Onslow-Cole could see his British Touring Car Championship hopes dashed by the credit crunch, according to one of his chief rivals.

The 21-year-old is yet to agree terms with VX Racing for next season having enjoyed an encouraging first campaign with the Vauxhall team, which added the 2008 manufacturers' title to the drivers' championship won by Fabrizio Giovanardi.

Onslow-Cole needs to raise in the region of £350,000 worth of sponsorship to effectively buy himself a race seat, if he doesn't land a works drive next season.

And former Brooklands College student Tom Chilton, who left Vauxhall for Team Halfords at the start of last season, fears for his rival given the current economic climate.

"He paid for his seat at Vauxhall last year and, fair play to the guy, he did a great job. With the markets as they are, there are fewer manufacturers entering teams in the championship and sponsorship is becoming increasingly hard to find," he said.

Full story: yourlocalguardian.co.uk

To Ell and back

Kingston went down to a 14-3 defeat at Ellingham & Ringwood on Saturday.

Kingston took the lead through an early penalty, converted by Michael Walsh, but it was all downhill from then on as the hosts took control.

E&R kicked a string of penalties in the second period as Kingston struggled to cope. On top of this, prop Lee Deadman took a blow to the head and had to be withdrawn.

This Saturday, Ks take on Gosport & Fareham.

Full report: yourlocalguardian.co.uk



Out you stay: Surbiton's goalkeeping hero Allan Dick pushes the ball clear, watched by team-mate Brett Garrard (in green)

Dick's a hero between sticks

Surbiton goalkeeper Allan Dick was his team's hero as the Long Ditton-based club drew 0-0 at East Grinstead in their final Slazenger EHL

National Premier Division fixture before the winter break.

The Scottish international keeper, who signed for the Surrey club at the start of the

season, made a string of fine saves to keep Surbiton in the game.

The second half of the season begins on February 1.

Full story: yourlocalguardian.co.uk

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Dowson not haunted by last season

by **STUART AMOS**

samos@london.newsquest.co.uk

Kingstonian boss Alan Dowson insists he will not allow history to repeat itself, claiming he has learnt the lessons of last season, which saw his side blow a promising start to the campaign.

Ks lost 3-2 to Ashford Town on Sunday almost 12 months to the day that a 2-0 defeat to Worthing sparked a run of just three wins in 17 league games – costing them a shot at promotion.

Dowson's men sit top of the Ryman League Division One South table, but have seen their lead slashed to four points after just one win in their past five matches.

Sunday's defeat is the first since winger Dean Lodge quit the club for Blue Square Premier strugglers Northwich Victoria.

But, while the Ks chief concedes his departure will force a rethink in his side's game plan, history has taught him not to panic when it comes to dealing with a slump in form.

"A run like last year will not happen this time around. We have got too good a squad for that to happen," he said.

"Last year, I was perhaps guilty of trying to bring in five or six players

to change things around. "When I compare the two squads now there is no comparison.

"Man for man, we are miles better. Of course, we will look for a replacement for Lodge but, unless there is someone better than we already have, they'll not be coming in.

"We will change our style a little bit, but we need to get back to basics – particularly with our defending – and get back to the things we were doing at the start of the season. They are my players and I have to believe in them."

Sunday's clash ended a run of 13 games at Kingsmeadow in their past 16 and Dowson, who has a clean bill of health in his squad, reckons he is sick of the sight of the place.

And he is looking forward to a run of four league games on the road.

"I have never known anything like it. I'd rather have an away game after that, and I'm looking forward to getting away from it," he added.

Ks' next three matches: Dec 5 Dulwich Hamlet (a), 13 Fleet Town (a), 20 Crowborough Athletic (a).

Ks updates: yourlocalguardian.co.uk

SPORTSbrief

TENNIS: New Malden's Melanie South has continued her charge towards the world's top 100 with a series of fine performances in the Toyota Championships in Japan. South reached the quarter-final of the singles draw before bowing out to Russia's Ksenia Lykina, a display that saw her climb to a career-best ranking of 110. She also teamed up with Finn Emma Laine to win the Toyota doubles, despatching third seeds Kimiko Date-Krumm and Xinyun Han in the final.

More tennis: yourlocalguardian.co.uk

FOOTBALL: The Kingston College Academy/Staines Town squad have won the southern region of the British Colleges Five-a-Side Championship at ROKO Health Club, Portsmouth. There were 21 colleges involved, with Kingston defeating Taunton's (Southampton) 3-2 in the final. Kingston will now be the Southern England representatives at the National British Championships in April.

Squad: Danny Sonner, Alfie Arthur, Luke Elliott, James McShane, Mo Abbasi, Elliott Thompson, Ashley Lodge, Ryan Ford.

Full story: yourlocalguardian.co.uk

FOOTBALL: Chessington & Hook United's Combined Counties League game against Epsom & Ewell was postponed on Saturday. Chessy next face Bedfont Green away this Saturday – a team level with them on 20 points in the table.

More football: yourlocalguardian.co.uk

ATHLETICS: Kingston & Polytechnic are in action in the annual Gordon Pirie 10-mile cross country race at Farthing Downs, Coulsdon, on Saturday.

More athletics: yourlocalguardian.co.uk

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